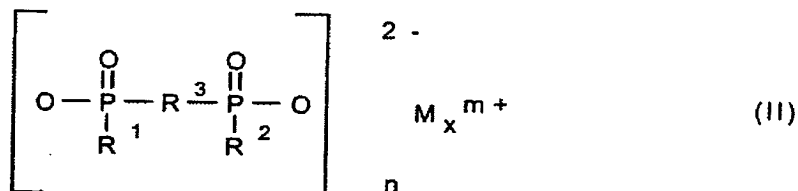
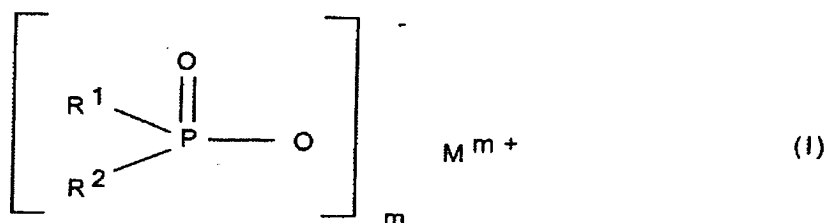


Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition which ~~comprises, ascomprising a~~ flame retardant; selected from the group consisting of at least one a phosphinic salt of the formula (I) ~~and/or a~~ diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) ~~and/or polymers of these a~~ polymer of formula (I), a polymer of formula (II) and mixtures thereof



where

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> are identical or different and are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, linear or branched, and/or aryl;

R<sup>3</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkylene, linear or branched, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylene, -alkylarylene or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K and/or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4; and

x is from 1 to 4,

and ~~also comprises~~ at least one synergistic component from the group consisting of organic ~~or~~ and inorganic phosphorus compounds.

2. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are identical or different and are  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, linear or branched, ~~and/or~~ phenyl.

3. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are identical or different and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl ~~and/or~~ phenyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene or n-dodecylene.

5. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  is phenylene or naphthylene.

6. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  is methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene or tert-butyl naphthylene.

7. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  is phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene or phenylbutylene.

8. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7, which comprises~~ claim 1, comprising from 0.1 to 30 parts by weight of ~~phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these, and~~ the flame retardant, and from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the at least one synergistic component, an organic phosphorus compound,

per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an organic phosphorus compound.

9. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7,~~ claim 1, comprising from 1 to 15 parts by weight of ~~phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these~~ the flame retardant, and from 1 to 20 parts by weight of ~~the at least one synergistic component an organic phosphorus compound,~~ per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an organic phosphorus compound.

10. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an organic phosphorus compound is selected from the group consisting of triethyl phosphate, triaryl phosphates, tetraphenyl resorcinaldiphosphate, diethyl dimethyl methylphosphonate, and/or its dimethyl methylphosphonate polymer with phosphorus pentoxide, phosphonate ester, (5-ethyl-2-methyl-dioxaphosphorinan-5-yl)methyl methyl methanephosphonate, phosphoric acid, pyrophosphoric ester, alkylphosphonic acids, and/or oxalkylated derivatives of these alkylphosphonic acids.

11. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, comprising from 0.1 to 30 parts by weight of ~~phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these~~ the flame retardant and from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of ~~an inorganic phosphorus compound~~ the at least one synergistic component, per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an inorganic phosphorus compound.

12. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, comprising from 1 to 15 parts by weight of ~~phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or~~

~~polymers of these~~ the flame retardant, and from 1 to 20 parts by weight of ~~an inorganic phosphorus compound~~ the at least one synergistic component, per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an inorganic phosphorus compound.

13. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an inorganic phosphorus compound is selected from the group consisting of red phosphorus, ammonium phosphate, and/or melamine polyphosphate.

14. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 13, which also comprises carbodiimides~~ claim 1, further comprising at least one carbodiimide.

15. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 14, which is~~ claim 1, wherein the thermoset composition is selected from the group consisting of a molding composition, a coating or a laminate made from thermoset resins.

16. (Original) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the thermoset resins are unsaturated polyester resins or epoxy resins.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16, which comprises~~ claim 1, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with a the flame retardant made from phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these with and the at least one synergistic component from the group consisting of organic or inorganic phosphorus compounds to form a mixture, and wet-pressing (cold-pressing) ~~the resultant mixture at pressures~~ a pressure of from 3 to 10 bar and at temperatures a temperature of from 20 to 60°C.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16, which comprises~~claim 1 comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with a the flame retardant ~~made from phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these with~~and the at least one synergistic component ~~from the group consisting of organic or inorganic phosphorus compounds~~to form a mixture, and wet-pressing (~~warm or hot pressing~~) the resultant mixture at pressures ~~a~~pressure of from 3 to 10 bar and at temperatures ~~a temperature of~~ from 80 to 150°C.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16, which comprises~~claim 1, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with a the flame retardant ~~made from phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these with~~and the at least one synergistic component ~~from the group consisting of organic or inorganic phosphorus compounds~~to form a mixture, and processing the resultant mixture at pressures ~~a~~pressure of from 50 to 150 bar and at temperatures ~~a temperature of~~ from 140 to 160°C to give prepregs.

20. (New) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein said wet-pressing step further comprises cold-pressing.

21. (New) The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the wet-pressing step further comprises warm or hot pressing.